GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1335
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
REGULATION OF FOREIGN COMPANIES IN TELECOM SECTOR
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified telecommunications as a strategic sector after the recent terror attacks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to regulate and ascertain the credentials of foreign telecom companies and individuals who are making investment in India Telecom companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (d) Telecommunication Sector is already regarded as sensitive sector for Foreign Direct Investment from national security angle. The Government while raising Foreign Direct Investment ceiling from 49% to 74% has notified vide Press Note No. 3 (2007 series) dated 19th April, 2007, a number of measures including security conditions which are now part of license conditions to be complied by all licensees irrespective of FDI.

The Government is working for setting up of Centralized Lawful Interception and Monitoring System for carrying out interception and monitoring from a centralized location as part of project `Centre for Communication, Security Research and Monitoring`. The Government is also working on setting up of dedicated and fully secured communications network for defence and security related requirements of the country.